

A B S T R A C T

A PROTOCOL FOR CONTROLLING ACCESS TO SCRAMBLED DATA IN
SPECIFIC TIME RANGES

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The invention relates to a protocol for controlling access to scrambled data in specific time ranges, using access control messages ECM. The protocol consists: in assigning (A) each access control message ECM a number (T_j) satisfying a monotonic non-decreasing function, the messages representing a timebase formed by a plurality of individual time intervals for sending successive quanta of information; in detecting (B) in each descrambling terminal the numbers of the access control messages, and then, in response to a user request (UR) from the user; in selecting (C) an access control message number that corresponds to the sending time of the request to constitute a time origin (T_{j0}) of the timebase; and in authorizing (D), (E) access to the scrambled information as a function of a specific access criterion with reference to the origin (T_{j0}) and over a time range corresponding to a plurality of individual time intervals defining a plurality of successive quanta of scrambled information. Application to pay TV access control.

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Translation of the title and the abstract as they were when originally filed by the Applicant. No account has been taken of any changes that may have been made subsequently by the PCT Authorities acting ex officio, e.g. under PCT Rules 37.2, 38.2, and/or 48.3

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